

Glossary of terms for the non-Muslim and the new Muslim

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

This is an effort to bring the English meanings of some of the commonly used terms in the books of Islaam.

Abd : A male slave, a slave of Allaah.

Adhaan : The call to Salah (Prayer) pronounced loudly

Ayah (pl. Ayaat): A sign of Allaah; a verse of the Qur'aan.

Aboo (Abee, Abaa): Father of; used as a means of identification

'Alayhi salaam: "May Allaah protect and preserve him" It is said after the name of the Prophet of Allaah or after the name of an angel.

Alim : A knowledgeable person or a religious scholar in islaam.

Allaahul Musta'an: Allaah's help is sought

Allaahu Akbar: Allaah is the Greatest

Ahaadeeth: See Hadeeth

'An'anah: a narrator's reporting by saying 'from so and so' not describing exactly in what form it was transmitted to him. This will only affect the authenticity of the narration if the one doing it is a *mudallis*.

Ansaar: "Helpers"; the Muslims of Madeenah who supported the Muslims who migrated from Makkah.

Aameen: O Allaah ! accept our invocation.

Bid'ah: Innovation; anything introduced into the Religion, in order to seek Allaah's pleasure, not having a specific proof or basis in the Religion.

Companions (Arabic - Sahaabah): the Muslims who saw the Prophet (may Allaah protect and preserve him) and died upon Islaam.

Da'eef: weak; unauthentic (narration)

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Da'wah: Literally call. This refers to the concept and practical implementation of inviting and calling a person or persons to abide by and accept Islaam in its pure and unadulterated form.

Deen: way of life prescribed by Allaah i.e. Islaam

Duha : Forenoon

Eemaan: faith; to affirm all that was revealed to the Messenger (may Allaah protect and preserve him), affirming with the heart, testifying with the tongue and acting with the limbs. The actions of the limbs are from the completeness of *Eemaan*. Faith increases with obedience to Allaah and decreases with disobedience.

Fataawa: see Fatwa.

Fatwa (pl. Fataawa): religious verdict.

Fiqh: the understanding and application of the *Sharee'ah* from its sources.

Firdaus : The middle and the highest part of the Jannah.

Fitnah: (pl. fitan): This linguistically refers to calamities, trials, tribulations and mischief.

Ghusl : A ceremonial bath. This is necessary for one who is **Junub**, and also on other occasions.

Hadeeth (pl. Ahaadeeth): narration concerning the utterances of the Prophet (may Allaah protect and preserve him), his action or an attribute of his.

Hajj: Pilgrimage to Makkah

Halaal: permitted under the *Sharee'ah*

Haneef : Pure Islamic Monotheism

Haram : The Sanctuaries of Makkah and Al-Madeenah

Haraam: prohibited under the *Sharee'ah*

Hasan: fine; term used for an authentic *hadeeth*, which does not reach the higher category

Haya: Modesty – Bashfulness

Hijaab : A long dress prescribed from Muslim women to cover their whole body from head to feet

Hijrah : Migration

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Ibn: son of; used as a means of identification.

Iftaar : Breaking the fast

Imaam: leader; leader in *Salaah*, knowledge or *fiqh*; leader of a state.

Isnaad: the chain of narrators linking the collector of the saying to the person quoted.

Jinn: A creation of Allaah created by smokeless fire.

Kaafir: A disbeliever.

Khaleefah (pl. Khulafaa’): the head of the Islamic government (the *khilaafah*) to whom the oath of allegiance is given.

Khulafaa’: see *khaleefah*.

Kufr: Disbelief.

Kuffaar: Disbelievers.

La ilaha illa Allaah: There is none worthy of worship except Allaah

Mudallis: most commonly a narrator who reports things from his Shaikh which he did not directly hear from him but from an intermediediate whom he does not name but instead says ‘from the Shaikh’. This intermediate may be weak. The scholars of hadeeth will only accept the narrations of a mudallis when he clearly states that he heard them from the Shaikh, i.e. ‘The Shaikh narrated to us...’ e.t.c.

Muhaajir: One who migrates from the lands of the disbelievers to the land of the Muslims for the sake of Allaah.

Munqati’: (lit. disjoined) An isnaad in which two continuous links are missing in one or more than one place or an unknown narrator is found to join the links.

Mursal: loose; a narration in which a Successor narrated directly from the Prophet sallallahu ‘alayhe wasallam, i.e. omitting the Companion from who he heard it.

Mushaf : The Qur’aan between two covers.

Matrook: (lit. discarded) Where narrators are accused of falsehood in matters other than the narration of the tradition.

Radiyallaahu ‘anhu/’anhaa/’anhum/’anhumaa: may Allaah be pleased with him/her/them/both of them.

Rahimahullaah/Rahimahumullaah: may Allaah bestow His mercy upon him/them.

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Saheeh: correct; an authentic narration.

Salaf: predecessors; the early Muslims; the Muslims of the first three generations: The Companions, the Successors and their successors.

Salafus-Saaliheen: pious predecessors; the Muslims of the first three generations: the Companions, the Successors and their successors.

Shaikh/Shaykh: scholar

Shaitaan: Satan

Sharee'ah: the Divine code of Law.

Shirk: Associating partners with Allaah.

Sunnah: in its broadest sense, the entire Deen which the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhe wasallam came with and taught, i.e. all matters of belief, rulings, manners and actions which were conveyed by the Companions. It also includes those matters which the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhe wasallam established by his sayings, actions and tacit approval – as opposed to bid'ah (innovation).

Sunnah: an action of the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhe wasallam.

SubhanAllaah: Glory be to Allaah; How perfect is Allaah of *Saheeh*.

Soorah: a chapter of the Qur'aan.

Taabi'ee (pl. Taabi'een): a Muslim (other than another Companion) who met a Companion.

Taqwa: "taqwa is acting in obedience to Allaah, hoping for His mercy upon light from Him and Taqwa is leaving acts of disobedience, out of fear of Him, upon light from Him."

Tawheed: Literally Oneness – The belief and realisation of singling Allaah out alone in His Lordship, the Worship that is performed for Him and His names and Attributes, apart from all other false deities. This entails the belief that Allaah is the only true Creator, Sustainer, and Administrator of the Universe. It entails that one is mandated to perform and sincerely direct all of his worship to Allaah alone and no one else. And lastly, it entails believing in all of Allaah's perfect Names and Attributes, and that they apply to Him alone and no one else.

'Ulamaa: Scholars of the Deen of Islaam.

Umm: Mother of. Ex: Umm 'Abdillah – Mother of 'Abdillah

Zaahid: One who practices zuhd.

Zuhd: Abstaining from the world and its luxuries.